

**PROPOSED INITIAL 5-YEAR GROUNDWATER CLEANUP APPROACH
RIALTO-COLTON AND NEIGHBORING BASINS
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

Four water purveyors serving more than one-quarter of a million customers in the western portion of San Bernardino County, California have been significantly impacted by perchlorate contamination in various ways, with the major currently known source of perchlorate contamination in the Rialto Colton Basin being a site formerly used by the Department of Defense, defense contractors, fireworks entities and others. The community served by these water purveyors depends almost exclusively on groundwater and alternative sources of supply are limited or simply not available.

Recognizing these conditions, the County of San Bernardino and the four water purveyors: the Cities of Colton and Rialto, the Fontana Water Company and the West Valley Water District have formed the Rialto-Colton Basin Technical Committee to identify a strategy for restoring water supplies and cleaning up the groundwater. This White Paper outlines a technical approach and identifies the cost of this approach including investigation, capital improvements and five year operating and maintenance costs.

The principal objectives of this cooperative effort are:

- Protect public health and restore the public water supply by securing funding to construct and maintain new wellhead treatment systems and maintain existing treatment systems that will facilitate removal of perchlorate.
- Prevent or reduce further spread and provide cleanup of the perchlorate and associated groundwater contamination through the design, construction and operation of two series of interceptor wells and associated treatment systems.

This approach optimizes limited resources, and decreases the timeframe and overall costs required to restore groundwater supplies and cleanup contaminated groundwater.

The total cost to initiate this comprehensive five-year approach is \$106,150,000. This is based upon implementation of the following solutions:

- Ten new wellhead treatment systems that will treat the water produced by 12 wells yielding a combined water production capacity of 31 million gallons per day. The estimate for capital and five years of operations and maintenance costs for the ten systems is \$45,160,000.
 - Five years of operations and maintenance costs and unrecovered capital costs for the existing eight treatment systems treating water from ten wells for a combined water production capacity of 28 million gallons per day is estimated at \$28,760,000.
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- Design, engineering, construction and five years operations and maintenance of the two interceptor systems using strategically positioned groundwater extraction wells and treatment plants is estimated to cost \$32,230,000.

Assuming funding can be secured, this cooperative effort between the five agencies will result in the restoration of water supplies to the area in conjunction with minimizing the further spread of the contamination. If the proposed mitigation measures were not implemented, the water supplied to hundreds of thousands of currently unaffected customers in San Bernardino County and beyond, could ultimately be impacted by perchlorate from this plume as it migrates further into the Santa Ana River Watershed.